

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Gas Shortages Strike MBA With a Vengeance

by
Daniel Green
Staff Writer

As we have all noticed, Nashville has been hit with serious gas shortages the past two weeks. MBA students, like all other people, have been affected by our crisis. With long lines reminiscent of the 1970s, tension and tempers are often running higher than usual and can sometimes lead to some funny situations.

Taylor Land, MBA senior, tells his story of an argument with an irate ice cream man: "I was in line at the Charlotte Shell. An ice cream truck pulls up behind me, and the guy gets out and knocks on my window. He asks if he can cut in line in front of me. I said, 'No, I don't think so. I can't back up on Charlotte Avenue because it's busy. And people will get mad...' He said, 'Well I'm an adult! I deserve this gas! You're just a kid! You deserve nothing!'" I said, 'You're only one spot behind me, so I'm pretty sure you will get gas.' He said, 'Well I'm not so sure!' I said, 'I'm not gonna let you cut in front of me.' Then he, displaying remarkable maturity, yelled lots of cuss words and went back to his ice cream truck. For a man who listens to "Pop Goes the Weasel" on a non-stop loop all day, he was very angry."

The shortages have also made MBA students take desperate trips around Nashville in an attempt to find gas. Junior Mitchell Lukens looked on West



Daniel and Taylor are so low on gas that they are forced to push their car up to the gas pump.

End, White Bridge Road, Charlotte, 46th Avenue, and Murphy Road—all with his gas light on—until finally giving up and heading home. The car finally ran out of gas in his driveway, and he had to get two full cans of gas just to revive it.

Senior Nicholas Concepcion had a similar story. He set out to Hillsboro Road with two of his friends on a tip that there was gas. Naturally, there wasn't. On the way home, Nicholas ran out of gas ten feet from the Woodmont-Bowling intersection and, along with his friends, had to push his car to the side of the road. He then called someone to come and give him gas.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and Houston Oldham's second-hand account that he described as "hardcore" certainly fits that saying. A car was stalled and blocking the pumps at a gas station, so twelve guys picked up the car and carried it away from the pumps.

With nearly all of the bag-covered pumps now open, we all can only hope that this is the last we see of gas lines and closed stations. Let's all look on the bright-side and be glad that we even have our four-dollar-a-gallon—and rising—gas again. Happy pumping, everyone!

Digital Textbooks Are Not Universally Liked

by Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

Is a textbook revolution underway? Over the past few years, the MBA Science department has been using the text *Principles of Physics* by Kinetic Books for its regular Principles of Physics class. The book is unlike the three other Physics books used by MBA at the honors and two AP levels in that it is meant for computer interaction, with online material supplementing the text. The system has been adopted by many educational systems and colleges across the nation, including major engineering schools such as Purdue. In fact, Kinetic Books for Algebra and Physics have been adopted by the states of Georgia, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Utah, and the College Board has approved the Physics books for its AP[®] classes.

Dr. Carro, who teaches three regular Physics classes, applauds "using a book unique in its kind that is designed to be with a computer" because it allows

students "to be exposed to something coming their way." He says that in a world of rapidly advancing technology eventually almost all work will be done on computers. Dr. Carro also says that the program saves valuable time by grading the homework assignments online. But it is the homework assignments that appear to be getting some backlash from this year's Physics students. One disgruntled junior, when asked to comment on his Physics homework, bluntly described the homework system as "inefficient and inconvenient." About half of the students polled agreed that they did not like the system, while a third of those asked remained neutral in their stance.

Other students, however, found the program to be useful. A junior said that the homework was "easy to forget" because it was online, "but otherwise it's pretty cool" because the students get a second chance to answer a question

correctly after the computer program grades the initial response. Another student thought that the interactive supplements to the textbook were very helpful, even though he disliked the homework process because he feared that it did not accurately reflect his intelligence and knowledge of physics. He said your grade depended too much on typing correctly and having a well-installed Java platform.

The lack of partial credit, it seems, is the main factor as to the general disdain for this homework method. But Dr. Carro says that half of the calculated grade is based on completion, and the option is available to resubmit the work in paper if students feel that their grade should be readjusted. He also mentions that students could change their homework habits to help their grades. For instance, the students should do a few physics problems each night, and they

should do the problems on paper first, after printing the work off the website. He says it is far easier to do the problems on paper and then simply enter them online once the student is finished.

Most seniors who used the program last year agreed that this was their only complaint and that they gradually warmed up to the program as the year progressed. Dr. Carro himself predicts that this year's juniors will come to see the advantages of the interactive textbook system as they become used to it.

Many of the problems apparent in this system are due to the imperfections of technology, such as problems with internet access and computers' lack of sympathy for human beings. But as technology improves, so will this system. Eventually, perhaps, online homework will expand and affect a greater part of the MBA Community.



THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Sarah Palin May Not Be The Right Choice

by Campbell Haynes
Staff Writer

"Who is Sarah Palin?"

That's the question many Americans asked on August 29, 2008, when John McCain selected her to be his vice presidential running mate. Once the news was out, many (including myself) attacked the pick, claiming the choice was obviously pandering to ex-Hillary voters and that Palin's staunch pro-life record could do nothing but hurt McCain's chances with women.

How wrong most of us were! The Palin pick has breathed life back into what was a boring McCain campaign, and even caused McCain to surge into the lead last week for the first time. Palin, for the moment, seems to have revitalized the Republican base; her extreme social conservatism has ended fears about McCain's lack of any substantive social stance, and even inspired some to call her "the next Reagan."

While Palin has indeed led to a newfound enthusiasm for the Republican Party, her choice appears to hurt the McCain campaign for three reasons. First, it throws the "experience" issue out the window. Sarah Palin was the Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, a town of roughly 6,000, prior to becoming Governor of Alaska. There are fewer people in all of Alaska than in Barack Obama's Illinois State Senate District. The Palin pick, therefore, seems to rid the McCain campaign of their best "offense" against Barack Obama: his lack of experience. As has been noted frequently, in an election of "the issues," as opposed to one of "experience," Obama probably wins or, at the least, has a distinct advantage.

Secondly, Palin hurts McCain in the area he frequently cites as his strength: foreign policy. Palin has little to no experience in foreign policy. CNN's Campbell Brown, pressing this point, badgered a McCain spokesperson into claiming that Sarah Palin had commanded Alaska National Guard troops in Iraq. Despite the obvious absurdity of the claim, the more absurd moment came when he insinuated that such command experience prepared her for the important foreign policy issues of the day. I seriously doubt that even if she had commanded the Alaska National Guard, Sarah Palin would be ready to take on China or Russia. In an interview with ABC's Charles Gibson, Palin herself was vague when

asked about the Bush Doctrine, and she appeared not to know what it was. The Bush Doctrine, America's foreign policy of preemption over the last 8 years, is a development with which even high school students are familiar, and anyone experienced at all in foreign policy clearly should.

Thirdly, Palin is too conservative. While social conservatism can be, at times, an attractive political option for many, this kind of conservatism may be over the top. As Mayor of Wasilla and then Governor of Alaska, Palin basically tried to remove every important book of the last two centuries from the libraries: *Great Expectations*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Catch 22*, and even *Harry Potter* are examples. Even more controversially, she did not think that *Daddy's Roommate*, a book about a homosexual couple and their child, belonged in the Wasilla library. Palin has also advocated teaching creationism, or the idea that the biblical "Let there be light" version of creation is correct, in schools. Her family values appeal was also tanked, a bit, when her daughter Bristol became pregnant out of wedlock. Since Bristol appears to be very pregnant, one has to wonder why Palin made the decision to accept the V.P. nod, knowing that her daughter would become the subject of so much scrutiny.

Despite all these negatives, Palin still fills stadiums wherever she goes to speak. In fact, many people are leaving after Palin speaks and before McCain does. The reason? The McCain campaign made a very shrewd campaign move: call it the Obama effect. They chose

a young, somewhat unknown yet popular state leader who takes stands and is a dynamic public speaker. This reason, more than anything else, may be why the McCain campaign chose Palin. She's essentially offset the "Rock Star" status of Barack Obama and returned the elections to one about the issues. While it is up in the air who actually wins on "the issues", at least the McCain campaign has a relatively stable ground from which to proceed.

Ultimately, though, the office of Vice President is there for one reason: in case the President falters, is impeached, or even dies. While the V.P. has other jobs, most important is replacing the president if he happens to exit the office. People like Harry Truman, who chose to end the war at Hiroshima, and Lyndon Johnson, who signed into law the Civil Rights Act, are the best examples of how a Vice President can get it right. Others, like Andrew Johnson, indicate just how wrong it could go for a Vice President. That's why Sarah Palin, despite her overwhelming popularity and the enthusiasm boost she has given the McCain campaign, scares many—her simplistic and even naïve view of foreign policy frightens, and her extreme social conservatism should be too far right for anyone. As the esteemed columnist David Brooks observed, "Sarah Palin... has not engaged in national issues, does not have a repertoire of historic patterns, and, like President Bush, she seems to compensate for her lack of experience with a brashness and excessive decisiveness."

It is increasingly clear, then, that the addition of Sarah Palin has fundamentally altered this Presidential race; only time will tell whether McCain made the right choice.



Sarah Palin waving to supporters.

The Other Running Mate Has Strength

by
Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

In many ways the 2008 Presidential Election has been handed to the Democrats on a silver platter. With approval rates for George W. Bush and the Iraq War at historic lows, there is no reason that the Democratic Party should not win this election. The Democrats, however, once again have proved that they cannot grab hold of an election if their lives depended on it, and the race has been blown wide open. Meanwhile, the G.O.P. has miraculously turned 72-year old John McCain into a fresh face in Washington and managed to make an over-glorified PTA mom into a national hero.

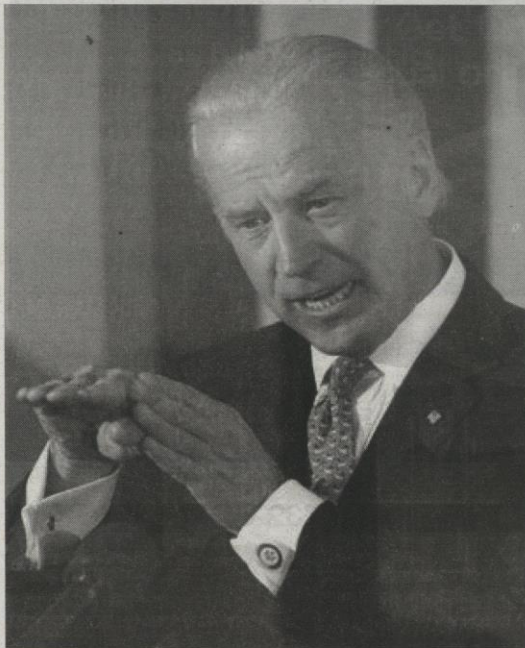
There still may be a secret weapon for the Obama campaign: Joe Biden. Although he has been out of the spotlight, Joe Biden brings to the table everything that Sen. Barack Obama needs to succeed in the elections. The question is: will the Democrats be smart enough to use him? Biden's weaknesses are quite straightforward. Mostly notably, Senator Biden has a very loose tongue and has said many questionable things in the past, and this tendency likely will come up over the coming weeks.

Voters will be able to forgive him for this weakness in light of his strengths. Most importantly, Biden is a traditional, blue-collar democrat, the kind that the Democratic Party has been sorely missing recently. Having grown up in a

working-class family, Biden is known as being a very straightforward and honest speaker, even after spending four decades in Washington. For a party that has recently had trouble shaking off its elitist perception, Biden will be able to better connect to the blue-collar voters in states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Biden also brings the years of experience that the Obama camp needs. Joe Biden has been serving in the Senate since 1972, and he has many years of foreign policy experience on his résumé. Although the argument could be made that this undermines Sen. Obama's mantra of change, realistically Joe Biden would likely only help Sen. Obama's agenda. Many complain that Obama's vision of change sweeping Washington by storm is too romantic and unrealistic. Biden would offer a crucial bridge between Obama and Congress that would be necessary if Obama plans to pass major, reforming legislation. Biden also dampens many criticisms about whether or not Obama is qualified, as he would offer a very dependable second opinion on policy.

Joe Biden is not nearly as flashy as Sarah Palin. Yet he could truly be a valuable asset to the Democratic campaign if only the Democrats would make him one. For the sake of Obama's chances, I can only hope his voice is heard.



Joe Biden making gesticulating during a speech.

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Seniors Finally Find Comity

by Fadi Pulous
News Editor

Senior Year is slowly becoming an unexpectedly difficult year for the class of '09, but it is this difficulty that has brought us closer together as a class. I have never seen such participation and support for every facet of extra-curricular involvement by our classmates. Despite being challenged academically, along with the stress of college applications, several guys were able to contribute to another solid *Bell Ringer*, with updates on school, the gas crisis, and other developing stories.

As usual, Will Holt is the first of many to chime in. Successful in most of his classes, Will wanted to let it be known he received a scholarship to be in a forum about oil in Alaska with classmate J.B. Hardin in mid-October. Most of the e-mails I receive from Will aren't true, so chances are Will will be staying put in Nashville for quite sometime.

Edward Powell has been nothing but stunning in his classes. Ed also seems to have no problem getting in his college applications while maintaining a rigorous course load and debate travels. Jamie Cooper sent in his opinion on AP Environmental Science (APES) as being his most difficult class. He refutes as just hype claims about APES being the easiest science course. Jamie also wants to point out that his truck is still b.a., with or without gas. It's awesome to see such dedication to a vehicle that gets negative miles to the gallon.

I asked Harding McCall how his year has been going, but oddly enough I never seem to get a verbal response back, just a hug. All this love is beginning to make me re-think talking with Harding.

After sending out my 9th consecutive e-mail about the class article, Taylor Land has still managed to avoid answering any question and has directed his attention to the fact that William "Big Play" Hayes had a tackle for loss of yards against the Texans this past weekend. I really wish I knew how to make my questions less relatable to the Titans. Ian Preston's having an interesting year so far, with astronomy his most fascinating class. And of course, no article would be complete without a Karl Mecklenborg reppin'. Karl has described his classes this year as "abysmal," has expressed his undying support of Mr. Compton, has had a good time in English with Dr. Kinch, while struggling with Calc BC, and just wanted to point out that his "brodozer" is worth less than the gas he fills it up with. The strange thing about Karl is he drives a Volvo.

Well, that's the year from the eyes of a few select gentlemen. All of these guys, despite the struggles, are enjoying their final year together. So, to everyone, come on out and support the entirety of the class in its involvement in extra-curriculars, and help make this class's last year a great one for the entire school.



Chris Anderson is excited to be a Senior.

Freshman Reflects On These First Few Weeks

by Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

As many of our readers are discovering, the school year has started for us new freshmen. Yes, we are little and unintelligent in the jaded eyes of the upperclassmen, but our first high school year is still going to be awesome (or at least better than Junior School).

I asked our class what they liked about the new year. First: so much more freedom. Gone are the days when everything we did, including what we ate for lunch, was dictated by Mr. Thurmond! We can eat when you want, where we want. We don't have to sign out for PL. Best of all, Mr. Anderson can't possibly patrol every single building in the school.

A lot of people said they liked how they can choose what courses they take. They were also quite relieved that Latin is over after this year. The only thing we couldn't agree on is whether there is more or less work in the high school. Some said they can get more work done at school because they have more freedom,

and others said that they have more work because of classes like Ancient and Medieval History.

Many of my classmates wanted to talk about their favorite teachers. Some they included are Dr. Seay, Mr. DeYoung, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Chenery, and Mr. Eppstein. They also had some complaints, but I think it would be dangerous to my health to print them here.

A couple had some stories to share. On the first day of school, Mr. Eppstein came to class in student clothes and sat down at one of the student desks. Everyone thought he was another student. After five minutes of waiting, the class started wondering where Mr. Eppstein was. In the hustle and bustle, Mr. Eppstein slipped out of the classroom, put on a coat and tie, and started teaching! Everyone was surprised.

Let's all hope that the rest of the year will be as exciting as these last few weeks.

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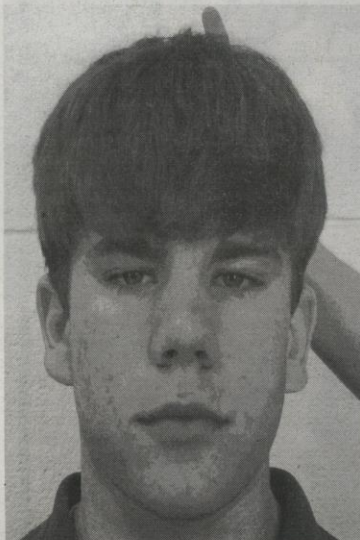
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ANIMALS AMONG US: King of the Jungle

By Sully Mehio
Staff Writer



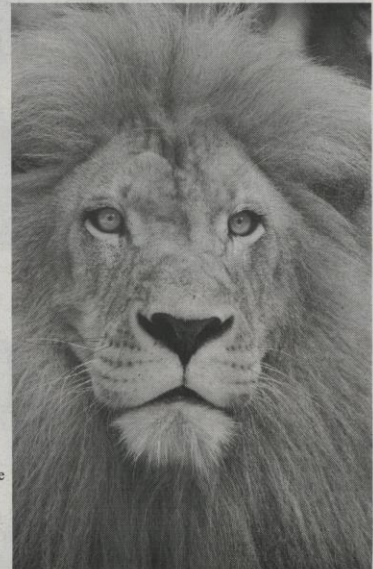
Genus / Species: Clayton McQuiddy

Primary Diet: impala, zebra, wildebeest, microbes, kudu, small giraffes, freshmen, water buffalo

Characteristics: The wild Clayton prefers warm, shaded areas and has been frequently spotted on the senior benches in the quad. Claytons mark their territory with their sharp-smelling, pungent urine, effectively driving off any unwanted intruders. When hunting, Claytons will lie waiting in trees or behind bushes, often for an entire study hall, and spring suddenly at any unsuspecting prey. Claytons are opportunistic feeders and will often target microbes, freshmen, and other small animals if their hunger persists. Claytons have become dangerously close to extinction (with their population having dwindled to 1), but in an effort to become more environmentally conscious, MBA has successfully managed to raise one in captivity for the past three years.

Cultural Depictions: courtesy of Wikipedia.com:

"...In the Puranic texts of Hinduism, Narasimha ("man-lion"), a half-lion, half-man incarnation or (avatara) of Vishnu, is worshipped by his devotees and saved the child devotee Prahlada from his father, the evil demon king Hiranyakashipu; Vishnu takes the form of half-man/half-lion, in Narasimha, having a human torso and lower body, but with a lion-like face. Narasimha is worshiped as "Lion God."



Sophomores See A Smooth Start

by
Andrew Powell
Staff Writer

Amid the failing economy, tense energy issues, heated presidential race, and UT's dismal season, one bright ray of light shines—MBA's Class of 2011 continues to succeed. Academically, this class boasts an impressive record. Athletically, many sophomores have become integral members in varsity sports.

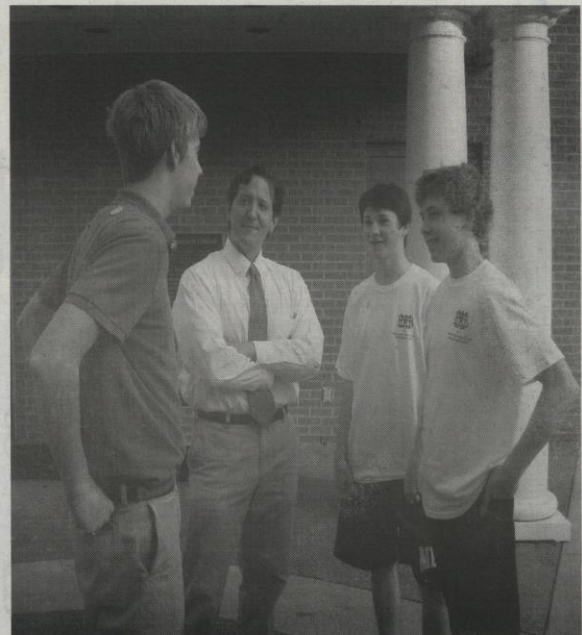
On the football field, sophomores are making big plays. Joe Riegler, a major part of the strong Big Red defense, has had many key plays in the first few games of the season, including game-sealing interceptions against Moeller and Hillsboro. On the offensive side, Alex "Elic" Hunt has certainly become a household name after his breakout performance against JPH. Rushing for 101 yds and 2 TDs, Elic padded the score to top off the Big Red's commanding performance. The JV team continues to play well, and the strong group of sophomores holds great promise for the years to come.

In cross-country, sophomore Michael Peters leads a very strong varsity

squad, which includes sophomores Ryan Hill and Hayes McCord as well. All three ran their 5K's under 17:00 recently at the McCallie Invite.

The class added a few new recruits this year - Collin Brannon, Chad Hoback, and Michael Lindley. Collin runs cross country, and Chad and Michael both play football. But these are not the only new faces: Hunter Pie, staying with Jack Hallemann, and Alex Stogdale, staying with me, are visiting on exchange from Melbourne, Australia, joining the class for 6 weeks. Please do your best to make all these guys feel welcome.

Looking forward, the annual sophomore class trip to Six Flags is quickly approaching. On October 11, the class will join Harpeth Hall and journey to Louisville for a day of roller-coasters and funnel cakes. Sign-ups are well underway, and excitement is building for, as Coach Golenor puts it, some "serious sweetness!"



Sophomores and Mr. Tarkington receive advice from Senior Edward Williams.

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Diversity Grows Diverse At MBA

by Alvin Kim
Staff Writer

MBA is undergoing major diversification through a tremendous surge of ethnic or cultural groups. This year nine clubs alone are dedicated to a specific international identity.

While the Hispanic Achievers and JAG (Jewish Advisory Group) have long existed in their participation around the school, relatively new to the scene are the African-American Studies Club and the Asian Cultural Club (or MBAsians). Together with the old clubs, these ethnic groups all plan to help MBA become more aware of the cultures and plights of people at MBA and around the world.

The Asian Cultural Club this year

hopes to promote a greater understanding of Asian culture at MBA, where Eastern teachings are rare except to students who take Chinese. "We live in a time and age where cultures and people communicate across the world. Asian culture is finally making a foothold in America, so we hope that this year, MBA students can become more educated on the ideals of Asia" says Joshua Liang, president and co-founder of the club.

Despite Asians making up only four percent of the entire student body, the ACC hopes to open students' perceptions and ideas of the world. With sixty members already, the group also plans to

use its platform to expose opportunities to help those in need. Plans have already been discussed for helping earthquake victims in China. This enthusiasm to assist people around the world spreads also to Central and South America, where the Hispanic Achievers hope to make a difference.

The African-American Studies Club has vaulted to the forefront of international groups with a promotion of African culture and what it means to be a black person in America. With continually growing support from the students and faculty, Denzel Caldwell, president of the

club, says "We hope to continually raise awareness at the school and promote a greater understanding of African-American culture." Blacks also make up a mere four percent of the student body, yet the growing fervor for international understanding is remarkable.

Combining efforts from the German Club, French Achievers, JAG, ACC and African-American Studies Club, MBA can reach out across the world. MBA, today, increases its diversity through education and student leadership.



Ms. Li, Mrs. Qian, Joshua Liang, and Alvin Kim smile, while hoping to attract students to join the Asian Cultural Club.

Write for The Bell Ringer!

The Staff still needs a few good writers.
If interested, please contact Mr. Gaither or Brian Swenson!

Service Club Boosts the Autism Speaks Walkathon

By Bill Shofner
Staff Writer

The Autism Speaks Walkathon, held on September 13, 2008, raised money to support Autism Speaks, an organization designed to promote awareness of Autism and to fund research about the disorder. Autism is a brain disorder that affects one in every 150 children.

The Walkathon was the Service Club's big event for the month of September. The Walkathon brought many from the MBA community out of their beds at a very early 5:30AM. We rode over to the Nashville Superspeedway, arriving around 6:30 where we got off the bus, were given T-shirts, and divided into groups. The first group set up most of the stands, and the second group helped park cars. Afterwards everyone worked a station with duties that included: popcorn

selling, manning the food stations, monitoring the moon bounce, helping with the petting zoo, parking cars, helping take team pictures, and getting ice for the water coolers. During this time Service Club president Ian Preston made sure everyone was doing his job and getting the work done.

There were lots of Nashvillians attending this event, as well as people from all over the state and even some who were from different parts of the country. The organizers appreciated our help in keeping everything running smoothly. We were all touched by the smiling faces of the children and their families who came out in support of finding a cure for this disorder. The families were wearing team shirts with names like "Jack's Journey" and "Alyssa's Army."

After a couple of hours of taking care of the stations, the Walkathon itself began, and the supporters of Autism Speaks took three laps around the track at the Super Speedway. During this time the MBA volunteers took a much-needed break, playing chess, getting in the moon bounce, and playing with some of the kids (such as John-Mark Bellet performing wrestling moves on the kids), or even taking a nap.

At the end of the day we rode back to MBA, arriving home around 1:00. All the students involved felt that everyone got something out of this service

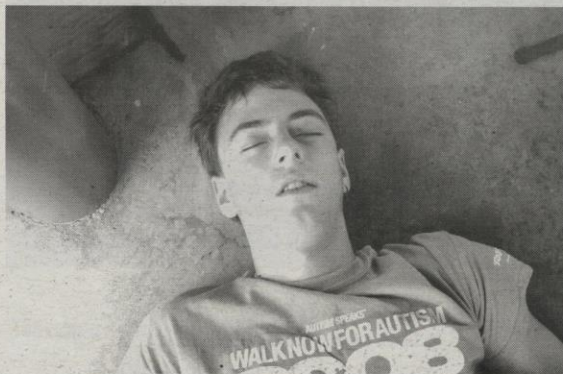
event. The MBA staff who contributed their services to the Autism Speaks Walkathon consisted of seniors Austin Archer, Harding McCall, Michael Numan, Logan Lechleiter, Sully Mehio, Jimmy Balser, Curry Beeker, Wyatt Redd, Andy Lustig, Ian Preston; juniors Bill Shofner, Wentoa Zheng, Patrick Meehan, Alex Austin, Tyler Cauble, Lee Srebnick; and freshmen Elliott Watts, John Mark Bellet, Blake Burns, Matthew Davidson, Jamie Bradshaw, Will Narramore, Chris Lee, Anderson Rader, Conry Miler, Edward Wilson, Colby McBride, and Holt Akers-Campbell.



The Autism Speaks group start the walk at the Nashville Superspeedway.



Two Freshmen stack themselves to try to be taller than Coleman Breland.



Harding McCall takes a well-deserved nap.



MBA's Autism Speaks group poses for a photo.

Veteran Bowlers Bring Potential

by Denney Sandwith
Staff Writer

That's right, everyone, it's that time of year you have all been waiting for—the 2008-2009 MBA bowling season has officially kicked off. I know that everyone has been counting down the days until this squad would suit up again and wow their huge crowds with their superior skills on the lanes.

The team, too, has been counting down the days after a heartbreaking loss to St. Benedict's of Memphis in the first round of the state tournament. The team is a veteran squad led by six seniors; returning are Will Andrews, Caldwell Ritter, Logan Lechlitter, Brian Swenson, Charlie Watkins, and newcomer Bradford Norton. The team is rounded out with returning juniors John Andrews, Ben Sutter, Denney Sandwith, and rookies Neil Reinhardt and Mark "Giggly" Giguere.

The squad has been holding intense practices three days a week at Hillwood Strike and Spare where a lot of blood, sweat, tears, and chili-cheese french fries have been put toward

the one and only goal: to win a state championship.

The team is returning five of six starters from last year; however, the one starter lost was kind of a big deal. He was the 2007-2008 Mr. Bowling, Rand Woodson. Though this loss might seem too much to overcome, the team hopes to jell in time to counteract the effect of losing a great bowler and the team's leader for the past 3 years. Coach Carr has been cautiously confident about this bunch, saying, "This team has all the potential to win the state championship we have always wanted, but they must improve in order to achieve that."

The journey toward MBA's first state championship in bowling starts Tuesday against archrival Father Ryan at Hillwood Strike and Spare. This match could be a litmus test for how the season will develop for the Big Red, so if we can start off on the right foot, the season will take us to the promised land. Oh, and,

hopefully, we'll win some big rings, too.



John Andrews shows the world what MBA Bowlers are made of.

Ultimate Wants Ultimate Status

by Kyle Brantley and Steven Gaittens
Staff Writers

How addictive is Frisbee? Wow! I haven't even played a full year for the team before, and I'm already obsessed. It's the easiest/greatest sport to combine pure athleticism with clutch thinking. After seven years as a winter sport, Ultimate Frisbee is still the only sport at MBA that does not have varsity status. True, Frisbee is not a part of the TSSAA, but neither is riflery, hockey, swimming, or lacrosse. Hockey and lacrosse each have a championship format, which is a big reason why they became varsity sports. Frisbee, too, has a championship tournament. The UPA, the governing body for Ultimate throughout the United States, has a state championship in Tennessee. MBA has never won it, but the team finished second last year to Ooltewah High.

The two main obstacles for Frisbee are, in the mind of Mr. Russ, "the perception of guys goofing off with a Frisbee...and the absence of a local league." However, there are multiple teams in the Nashville area, including USN, MLK, Hume-Fogg, Hillsboro, FRA, JP11, and Franklin. What most people don't realize, though, is that Ultimate is meant to be played in a tournament format, not just one game at a time. This format is the same for a sport such as riflery, in which it is common for more than just two teams to compete.

The perception of "guys goofing off" is one that can and should be easily fixed with proper exposure of the game.

With more people turning out to Frisbee tournaments and a few ultimate video highlights (which is going to happen), the school will be wowed with the intensity that Frisbee brings to the table (take a look at Steve's diving catch).

Ultimaters put in just as much time as any other sport. Ultimate is the only outdoor winter sport. Ultimate is an extremely fast-paced game; one must be at the peak of one's physical abilities in order to have a hope of competing.

If Ultimate is made a varsity sport, the likes of Matt Ractliffe and Baker Mulherin would be eligible to receive the award for playing in three sports each year of high school. They have put in just as much time as any other athlete and are definitely in better shape than the majority, if not all, of the student body. Which brings up yet another point: Ultimate is grueling. Three to four 1.5 hour games a day will take a toll on any athletes' body. Any dedicated student can excel in riflery: they just have to buy into the system and put in the practice. Not everyone is gifted with ridiculous speed and jumping abilities, like the Frisbee type. If activities such as bowling and riflery, where one can be relatively out of shape, are considered varsity sports, why not Ultimate? Ultimate Frisbee is rising fast as a popular sport on the national scene, and it's time that MBA recognizes that. MBA should give Ultimate Frisbee varsity status.



Steven Gaittens making a routine snag.

Coach Chris Sanders Has A Positive View

by Tom Markham
Staff Writer

I recently spoke with Coach Chris Sanders, the new wide-receivers' coach for MBA's football team, about this year's football season and his personal experiences with the program thus far.

Coach Sanders played in the NFL as a wide receiver for eight years, and he says this experience is very useful in helping coach. He explains, "Playing wide receiver is a craft. It's not just about being really fast." He says a good wide receiver must have an understanding of the game and of the routes he must run, and he believes that his NFL experience helps greatly in conveying this understanding of the "craft" to MBA's receivers.

When asked how the team has reacted to losing so many seniors from last year, Coach Sanders says they have reacted exceptionally well. He elaborated that "the team responded very well. They had heard all the talk of losing 34 seniors last year and how the team would not be very good this season, and they took on the challenge." He says that the team has a great group of leaders this year which help in driving the team to success.

I also spoke with Coach Sanders about the atmosphere around the football program, asking him what impressed him most about this year's team and the MBA football program. He says he is amazed at the "high expectation level" set at MBA. He commented that much is expected of the players, students, and even coaches at MBA. Such high goals are no accident,

he went on, since school leaders such as Coach McGugin and Mr. Gioia are great inspirations who lead by example.

Finally, I asked Coach Sanders if he had any predictions for the remainder of the season, to which he replied, "We

take it one game at a time. We play Ravenwood next; then we play Ensworth, B.A., Father Ryan, and McCallie. Those are five hard games in a row, so we just take it one game at a time."

Coach Chris Sanders is a welcome addition to the MBA football coaching staff, and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the game, especially the wide-receiver "craft," are already making a positive impact on this year's team.



Coach Sanders works with a wide receiver before the game against Moeller.



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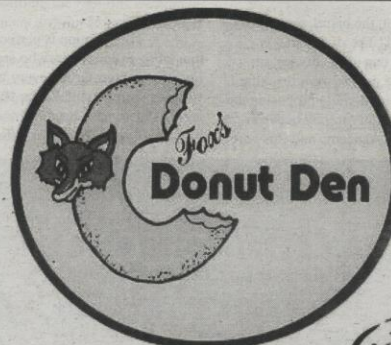
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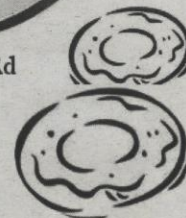
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The Bell Ringer Grades The Football Team

by
Alex Apple
Sports Editor

How well-rounded is MBA's 2008 football team? At first glance, there appears to be very few weaknesses in the team's composition. However, some tough opponents such as Brentwood Academy and Ensworth lie ahead, and they will for sure expose any cracks in the Big Red's attack. So far the team stacks up as follows:

Passing Offense: B+: Spencer Wise leads a much improved passing attack this year. The addition of Chris Sanders to the coaching staff appears to be one of head coach Daniel McGugin's best off-season moves. The receiving corps is easily the most improved unit on the team. William Tanner said that Coach Sanders is the reason for the receiver's improvement. He said, "Coach Sanders has us doing things that most receivers don't learn until they get to college." Tanner comes in 5th in the state with 22 catches thus far on the season, and Hooper Paty is second on the team with 11 catches. Spencer Wise remains extremely dependable with only two interceptions thrown thus far.

Rushing Offense: A-: Many pointed to the two thousand-yard rushers that MBA lost after last season as a reason why this would be a rebuilding year for the Big Red. However, many forgot that Patrick Crum may have been the starter last season if it had not been for a knee injury. Crum is a constant threat to break a long run, and senior Dent Schillinglaw is a great complement with his more bruising style of running. The offensive line led by Wesley Johnson and Wade Longmire continues to open up gaping holes and are more mobile than most high school lines, which lets MBA run more option plays and sweeps to the edges. The fumbles must stop, though, if MBA is to have maximal offensive effectiveness.

Rushing Defense: A: Juniors Brad Bars and Fitz Lassing head up one of the state's best linebacking cores. Brad Bars leads the defense in tackles, and the defense as a whole has not allowed a 100-yard rusher yet this season, though they will face some good backs like Joshua Tate and Orleans Opoku-Darkwa in the

upcoming weeks. Fitz Lassing said that the defense has been so effective because, "the defensive line is key. They take on a lot of blockers and then everyone tackles really well and swarms to the ball so no one can break free." They seem to have a knack for making big plays when needed, and they set the tone early in the games. Earlier in the year against Moeller in Cincinnati, the defense set the tone and shocked the opponent who thought they could roll over MBA.

Pass Defense: A-: MBA has gotten very consistent play from its secondary all season. The secondary is led by senior Reggie Ford and junior Jeff Nutkis, who have both done excellent jobs in coverage the whole season. The secondary is also able to come up and make plays on running backs and on the edges. They are one of the more physical secondaries in the state.

Special Teams: B+: With the exception of the Moeller game, the special teams have been a strength for the Big Red.

Andrew Fletcher has one of the strongest legs, which is vital on kickoffs for field position, and he has been extremely accurate as a place kicker as well. Fitz Lassing is also solid in the punting game. In the return game, there have not been many highlights, but there have been no mistakes made either.

Coaching: A+: In my mind, there is no doubt at all that MBA has the best coaching staff in the state. MBA plays like a college team. They are flawlessly prepared, always organized, and never look confused on the field. Since taking over as MBA head coach a little over a year and a half ago, Daniel McGugin has not lost one game. His record now stands at 19-0. The easiest way to size up a coaching staff is to see the halftime adjustments they make. In every second half, MBA has doubled up their opponents so far, carrying an over 2-1 margin. Chris Sanders, Sean Brock, and all the other assistant coaches also make the staff one of the most complete staffs in the state of Tennessee.

Is It Time For A Rivalry Trophy?

by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

The boot, the barrel, the coffee pot...and the bell? The rivalry that is guaranteed to be one of the biggest in middle Tennessee deserves a little extra. I, Kyle Brantley, am officially proposing the possibility for a rivalry trophy between Montgomery Bell Academy and Ensworth

High School.

The situation is perfect. MBA has tons of so-called rivals, who are vying to knock us off our throne every year. The rivalries with BA and Father Ryan are legit, as there have been intense battles in the past years. However, after just one

game, I can already tell that the Ensworth-MBA game will be the biggest every year. The intensity was ridiculous at the first game between the two schools, and it will only increase this Friday at Ensworth.

Ensworth's coach, Ricky Bowers, is the former coach of the Big Red: he led us to back-to-back state championships. Then, all of a sudden, he bolted at the opportunity to be Ensworth's athletic director and football and basketball coach. He even left two years before the school's first year. So, you know he wants to beat MBA, and vice versa.

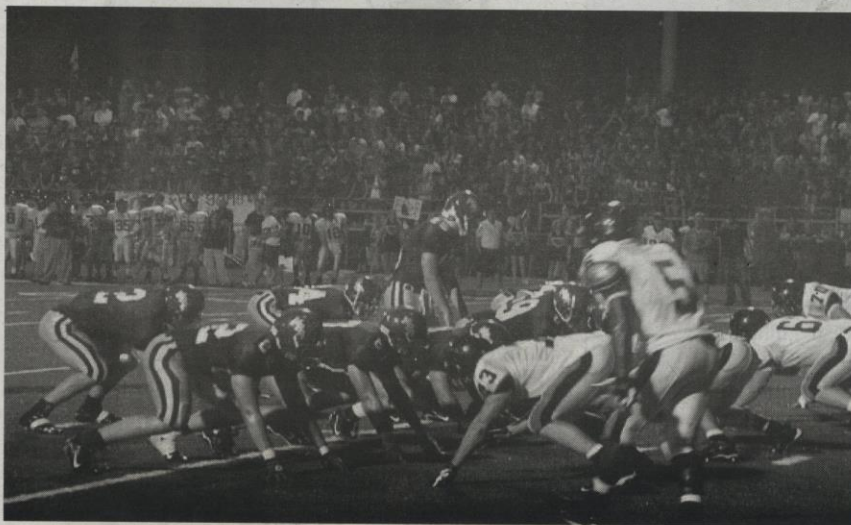
Both MBA and Ensworth are very similar, being prestigious private

institutions that cost a good amount of dough to attend. Many of the Ensworth and MBA students and players know each other very well because schools like Oak Hill and Ensworth Middle are the main feeder schools into the two respective high schools. Most importantly, the rivalry just started.

Rivalry trophies add so much to the big games which they represent. *The Tennessean* ran an article in its Sports Section on September 12, 2008 that ranked the top three rivalry trophies in Middle Tennessee, and the Coffee Pot between Coffee County and Tullahoma was number one. This accolade has been passed between the two teams since 1924! Even though it is just a coffee pot, it has so much meaning to the whole county. Tullahoma's senior Jared Olive told *The Tennessean* that, "It looks a lot sweeter when it's in your trophy case."

The idea of the trophy could be debated, but the possibility of about a two-foot high bell is very intriguing to me. One side of the bell could be painted maroon with MBA in silver and the other side could be painted orange with EHS in black. The school that wins could display the trophy in its case with the color of the school facing the front; then, when the week of the big game arrives, the school could bring the bell out onto the campus so the students can get pumped up for the big game and can savor it for another week. Then, after the game, the winning team rushes to receive the trophy, lifting it up with triumph!

A rivalry trophy is a gaping hole in the storied history of MBA athletics. It would add so much to the rivalry and create a competitive drive between the two schools that will last for centuries to come.



MBA's offense tries to take down the Ensworth defense at last year's game.

Two Restaurants Offer Delicious Fare

by Nick Williams
Staff Writer

Kebab Gyros: A Nearby, Hidden Gem

If you have never tried Greek food before, this would be an excellent place to start. The dish for which Kebab is known and named, the Gyro, is a piece of pita bread stuffed with spiced lamb or chicken, lettuce and tomato, Greek salad (tabouli), and a delicious, yogurt-based sauce that is good enough to request an extra cup for dipping.

The eatery is set up essentially as a Greek version of Subway or Jersey Mikes and, in my opinion, provides a much more satisfying and nourishing eating experience. Another popular dish on the menu, falafel, a long-time middle-Eastern favorite, provides an ideal accompaniment to the Gyro for hungrier customers. Falafel looks similar to a hush puppy with its breaded spherical shell, and it is stuffed with a delectable combination of spiced fava beans and chickpeas. Even if you don't know what either of these are, I would recommend not leaving Kebab without trying these tasty middle-Eastern treats.

The food is cheap and well worth your money, and the atmosphere is comparable to that of any cheaply priced sandwich shop. In the warmer part of the year, there is nice outdoor seating, and it definitely beats linoleum floors and fluorescent lights. As the restaurant

is tucked into same the shopping center where Jersey Mike's is located, off White Bridge Rd., it is entertaining and somewhat satisfying to see the unbearably long lines in the popular next-door sandwich shop, and then walk right next door to this undiscovered gem.

It has recently become an off-campus lunch favorite for some. I was brought here for the first time at the beginning of the summer, lured by cheap prices and exotic food that I had never tried before, and now I am a believer.

Mellow Mushroom: Matt Wieck's Favorite Pizza

The combination of an unbeatable atmosphere, pretzels, and an array of scrumptious pizzas make Mellow Mushroom a fabulous dining destination. As suggested by the name, the restaurant is mushroom-themed.

Upon walking in, you are greeted by an enthusiastic, hippy-clad staff and usually seated immediately, but on a Friday or Saturday night there may be a short wait because the restaurant is located just outside of the Vanderbilt campus, and it rivals Satco for the college students' business.

The walls are covered in murals of caricatured famous people and framed concert prints of the 1960s and 70s, and,

although the atmosphere is very cozy and dark, it certainly leaves aside the less appealing basement-like feeling you might associate with these descriptions.

Even though the menu features many tasty choices, no one should leave Mellow Mushroom without trying either the garlic or cinnamon pretzels for a starter and then a pizza with one of the alluring topping combinations. Some notable pizzas include "The Magical

Mystery Tour," topped with pesto, portabello mushrooms, feta cheese, and jalapenos, and "Kosmic Karma," which is essentially the same as the "Magical Mystery Tour" minus the jalapenos and plus sun-dried tomatoes. There is also a long list of toppings to "Create your own Pizza," if none of these eclectic combos suit your fancy. So, if you are looking for some of the best pizza in Nashville, don't forget to make a stop at Mellow Mushroom.

Cross-Country Team Is Rising

By Jack Hallemann
Staff Writer

With 5 runners finishing under 17 minutes at the McCallie Invitational, the MBA Cross Country team shows incredible promise as the state meet approaches. Led by seniors Baker Mulherin and Matt Ractliffe and sophomores Michael Peters, Ryan Hill, and Hayes McCord, the team has several strong runners this year.

Additionally, the team has shown great improvement by many runners, notably junior Campbell Kinnard and freshman Scott Dalton, throughout the first meets of the season due to the hard work and dedication necessary for such a grueling sport.

Regarding the rigorous training schedule runners endure, Michael Peters stated, "Every day I run because it is one thing I can trust, one pure constant." With just as much emotion, Ben Crook, in the middle of a run, stated, "Why do we choose to do this?"

The team has a promising group of incoming freshmen, including Daniel Peters, Myles Anderson, and Decoursey

Beach, who have all been steadily reducing their times despite the still hot conditions of the first few meets. These freshmen, along with a superb group of sophomores, ensure that the cross-country team will remain competitive in future years.

MBA's 2nd-place finish at the prestigious A.F. Bridges meet on Saturday indicates the progress the team has made. Only Baylor, of a field consisting of the best teams in the state, beat the Big Red runners. MBA placed three runners in the top ten: Michael Peters, Ryan Hill, and Baker Mulherin. Michael and Ryan both ran a time of around 16:35.

The Cross Country season will culminate in the state meet on November 1st, where MBA's top 7 runners will be pitted against those of the elite teams of the state, including Christian Brothers, McCallie, and the returning champions, Baylor. This meet is at Steeplechase, so come out and support the team by painting up and getting loud. Run Red Run.

MBA Goes Insane

by Will Holt
Entertainment Co-Editor

Fury. Revenge. Harassment. Insanity.

These four elements make MBA's latest, competitive one-act the most turbulent and disturbing yet. This play marks the first one-act that combines both MBA and Harpeth Hall's finest. The actors premiered the play Thursday evening, September 25th, to a huge audience in the Paschall Theater, and the response was outstanding.

Senior Willa Fitzgerald stuns all with her deeply emotional and desperate portrayal of Mary Girard, the wife of a rich, arrogant man who irrationally declares his wife insane. After learning of Mary's adulterous conception of a child, Steven Girard, played by Tommy Harless, commits Mary to the ward for the mentally deranged in the Pennsylvania Hospital. Mary frantically attempts to justify her sanity to those around her, but no one is convinced, and even Mary begins to wonder about the condition of her mind. Of course, Mary did break the conventions of the day, wanting, as she did, a life fuller than her husband would allow. At that time, 1790, the husband defined and dictated the wife's world.

The furious voices inside her head do not help either: a tremendously strong ensemble works together as "Furies" to personify Mary's growing insanity. The Furies are composed of a mixture of MBA and Harpeth Hall actors

who alternate uttering words within her head and dancing about her. With strong energy and accuracy, the Furies drive Mary to the madness that she originally denies. The directing of Dr. Rick Seay brilliantly brings together the ensemble and the vision of the play.

Bringing eeriness to the show and madness to Mary Girard as the Furies were MBA players Will Holt, Tommy Harless, Dalton Fouts, Matthew Moynihan, Will Lee, Daniel Smith. Will also played the creepy and lecherous warder, while Dalton doubled as Mr. Phillips, Mary's advocate, who sincerely pleads her case, but who in the end succumbs to the lure of money, leaving Mary to survive her fate on her own.

After MBA's disturbing loss in the Tennessee Theater Association's competition last year, Dr. Seay has chosen a play that would combine the ensemble of USN's overly-touchy (and raunchy) *Hair* with a plot and characters which truly force one to question human morality. CPA's *Glass Menagerie* has nothing on *Mary Girard*.

Come see MBA compete at USN on Saturday, October 4, where the actors plan to take back their domination over Nashville's competition, and see why Celeste and Berry Holt refer to MBA theater as the "Prozac plays."



The runners prepare to take off at the start.

Corbin Williams Brings Experience to *Zombie Prom*

by Ryan Hill
Staff Writer

Early last month, thespians from MBA and Harpeth Hall put on yet another outstanding collaborative show in their latest fall musical, *Zombie Prom*, after months of tireless work during the summer. Anyone who was lucky enough to see the play surely enjoyed watching their own classmate, junior Corbin Williams, give an explosive performance as the slick school rebel, Jonny, who has a sweet tooth for Toffee and literally emits his individuality after an unfortunate run-in with a nuclear reactor. These plays have become a wonderful tradition at the beginning of each school year and continue to showcase the various talents of students involved in every aspect of the production, on and off the stage.

In 2004, the year Scott Schwartz and Stephanie Rothenberg starred in *Footloose*, Corbin Williams was preparing for the lead role in the Junior School's musical production of *Tom Sawyer*. From this point, Corbin went on to earn the leads in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and this year, *Zombie Prom*. He has also taken part in various plays staged throughout the year at school and is currently preparing for a role in Harpeth Hall's upcoming play, *Medea*. Along with his contributions to the theater department,

he is also a member of the Headmaster's Singers and the MBA rock band.

Although Corbin has been frequently involved in the arts at MBA, his experience is not limited to scholastic performances. He has been a part of multiple plays at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and also has taken voice lessons regularly. Even as a child, Corbin took to the stage in shows at Opryland.

While the cast and crew of these fabulous plays make the performances look almost carefree, some in the audience may not realize the huge amounts of work invested in preparation for these shows. On June 28th, Corbin and the rest of the company began to meet every day during the week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. to prepare for the play; on Saturdays, they returned to school to work on the set from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tech crew and band also faced this time-consuming schedule in preparation for *Zombie Prom*. Apart from the demanding itinerary of summer practice, actors had to prepare for the "triple-threat," as Dr. Cal Fuller puts it, of acting, singing, and dancing.

"Corbin is so successful because he is a 'triple threat' and has worked hard training in all three areas since he was

young," says Dr. Fuller.

Considering this amazing workload, it is encouraging to hear Corbin speak for himself and many other avid thespians about his plans for further involvement in the theater program. Although he hasn't thought much about the direction of his career in regard to college, he plans to continue pursuing voice lessons and acting, in and out of school.

"I would expect him to continue to grow and get stronger," says Dr. Fuller about Corbin and his future as an actor and singer. "He has the desire and the discipline; that's what makes doors open for you."

Congratulations to Corbin and everybody who persevered through such a demanding summer schedule to make this most recent musical an outstanding and entertaining success.



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Even Zombies Can Come To Our Prom (A Review Of *Zombie Prom*)

by Nicholas Caprioli
Staff Writer

Immediately after leaving MBA's energetic production of the musical *Zombie Prom* a couple of weeks ago and being shocked that the play's Enrico Fermi High discriminated against and forbade zombies, I went home to check the MBA Handbook and evaluate MBA's level of inclusivity. I was relieved to learn that MBA embodies enlightenment--our school does not proscribe zombies.

Led by a cast of wonderful singers, the zany *Zombie Prom* shows us that treating others badly can have terrible ramifications and that, more importantly, we should treat even green and ragged zombies as normal, though dead, people and that we should embrace them into our lives. The condition of the person should not matter, only his natural goodness.

Even as the play started, I knew I was in for a great evening, for Dr. Fuller, the director, had placed his singers all around the theater, beyond just the stage, and the music reached the audience with a surround-sound effect. Throughout the show the entire space was cleverly employed to spread the cast and the activity, making the audience feel as much as possible a part of the action.

The staging, though, merely set a backdrop for the fabulous stage

presence and talents of Corbin Williams, who played Jonny (later, the zombie) and who is developing into possibly the best theatrical singer/dancer MBA has ever produced and, as Mr. Gaither remarks, rising beyond the level of such past and current Broadway performers as MBA alumni Michael Starr and Rob Hancock. Corbin's tenor is strong and clear, but his control of it keeps him in his role. Corbin holds our attention when he is on stage.

MBA theatre-goers would be well-served if the show producers would present a show which would truly showcase Corbin's talents. Harpeth Hall's production of *Millie* last year was a wonderful vehicle for Stephanie Rothenberg's impressive range of skills to be displayed and enjoyed. Corbin deserves the same.

Margaret Burrus, Corbin's co-star and Jonny's girlfriend, did a great job as Toffee. Since the play was a parody, I would like to have seen somewhat more drama and over-acting from her, but her singing and sincerity were captivating.

Alex Martin, as the pot-stirring reporter Eddie Flagante, was perfect, bringing to the show the exact attitude and style of the stereotypical 1940's and 50's reporter. His dancing and singing are more

than competent.

I did not detect a single poor voice among the chorus boys, the J Boys. Especially fun to watch among them were Ryan Penney and John Lowe who really seemed to understand musical theater. The other J Boys were Ford Altenbern, Aaron Ardisson, Austin Archer, Gage Baxter, Chris Goodrich, Ben Gregory, and Andrew Wright. Not only were their voices strong and in sync, but their dancing was surprisingly light and nimble.

The entire show was choreographed expertly and thoroughly rehearsed. Harpeth Hall's Stephanie Hamilton has proven time after time that she ranks among the best choreographers. The timing of everyone appeared to be exact, and she placed her dancers cleverly around the stage and the theater. The only negative remark overheard by this reporter was a feeling that perhaps the show was over-choreographed, that on a couple of occasions the focus on the primary action was distracted by peripheral dancing.

Seeing a couple of our teachers come on stage to serve punch at the prom near the end of the play

was a pleasant surprise and added a new focal point. More than one member of the audience remarked that they found themselves staring at the faculty members and neglecting the show. Fortunately for the show, these punch-pourers were on stage for only a few minutes. The placards carried by the demonstrating students were clever and funny. The creativity of the director, Dr. Fuller, was evident throughout the play.

The evening was not without its problems, though, and one problem was a huge distraction. The microphones worn by the lead actors cut in and out throughout the show, and this obviously has a major effect when the singer is performing a significant number, or any song for that matter. This technical deficiency has been a problem in past shows, and it needs to be corrected.

Overall it was a great evening for lovers of musical theater, and the show reinforced MBA's and Harpeth Hall's reputation for theatrical excellence. The play was fun, funny, fast-paced, and had a pertinent message. I know I have learned not to be exclusionary, not to be too judgmental, and I will resist the temptation to fault a person whom the vagaries of fate and chance have touched in an uncommon way. In the future I will be open to escorting even a zombie to a school dance.



The Cast takes a much-deserved bow.



Corbin sings in his zombie costume.

Tough Critic Reviews The Movies

by Will Holt and Jimmy Balser
Entertainment Co-Editors

Babylon AD – A simple movie in all aspects: it's Vin Diesel just being Vin Diesel... in the future. The plot of *Babylon* is a little blurry, rushed, and really completely forgettable... and you will occasionally wince when the actors break from the monotone characterizing their acting for most of the film. But despite its lacking any real positive characteristics, there are good, old-fashioned, Vin Diesel smack-downs throughout. It's a shame most of them are ruined when Vin decides he needs to get in touch with his sensitive side at the end of this mess. (2 of 5)

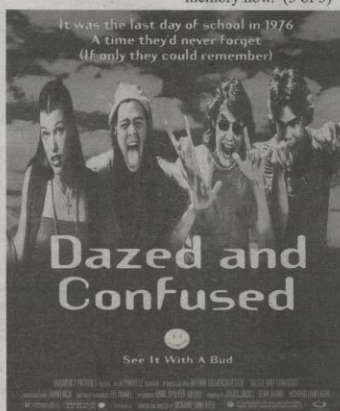
Burn After Reading – We still don't even know whether or not this is a good movie. It may be the strangest of the Coen Brothers films, and that's saying something. All of the acting is completely over the top, and the stylized extravagance jumps from amusing to annoying to shocking and back again. The most frustrating part may be that no one in this movie behaves as he should, with actions often seeming random and out of character. The exception to the inconsistency is JK Simmons, who is hilarious. There is some classic Coen Bros. brutal violence thrown in sporadically as well, for some gratuitous reality. (3 of 5)

Tell No One – This French thriller was shown at the Belcourt a few weeks ago, and while the defective subtitling proved a little annoying, most of the movie is way too intense to worry about the petty stuff. *Tell No One* has some really neat elements: one of the crazier chase scenes of the last few years, French lesbians, and a killer plot twist. It could be an American film, except for the quirkiness that gives away its roots. Also, the soundtrack is truly ridiculous, but entertaining. (4 of 5)

Tropic Thunder – True stupidity with sharp satire. With Ben Stiller, Robert Downey, Jr., Jack Black, and, yes, Tom Cruise, *Tropic Thunder* certainly has the star power. The best scenes were truly the ones of crude, disgusting, sexual humor, for we are, after all, teenage boys. War films are the most overdone, and often worst, films on the screen, and it's nice to see some people finally tell everyone to stop making the same thing over and over. *Tropic Thunder* succeeds in this respect. Further, needless to say, watching people get brutally blown up for comedy is always funny. (3 of 5)

Dazed and Confused – Still funny. Still for everyone. My goodness, it's funny, and, yes, the kid who plays Mitch should not be allowed in movies. Coleman Breland and Nick Williams recently made a midnight Belcourt visit to this movie for old times sake, and it was definitely worth it. "That's what I love about *Dazed and Confused*—we keep getting older, and it stays the same age...." (6 of 6) – "Just a sixer"

Man on Wire – In 1974 Philippe Petit walked 1350 feet above the ground. The only thing holding him there was a tight rope. This documentary follows the Frenchman's journey to walk between the World Trade Centers. The tagline of the movie notes the act as "the artistic crime-of-the-century." This movie is astounding. It seems scripted with its awesome reenactments and realistic relationships. It's beautiful to see such a feat of human will and perseverance come from the World Trade Centers. It puts the buildings in a completely different context. While September 11 showed the towers as acts of hatred and intolerance, this film portrays the towers as wonderful monuments to the world that are just a memory now. (5 of 5)



Will still loves *Dazed and Confused*.

Pictures of the MBA Carnival



Jackson Zeitlin captures the magic of the Big Red Dog in this picture, which took First-Place in the Photography Club competition.



Harrison Stringfellow's Second-Place picture illuminates the rock band's stands on the backdrop of the football field.